(b) A number of steps including an increase in the strength of the police personnel and in the number of vehicles, improvement in the communication systems as well gearing up of the intelligence machinery, have been with a view to check the incidence of crime.

1658. (Transferred to the 17th March, 1989).

Holidays for Judges of Supreme Court

1659. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of holidays available to Judges of Supreme Court of India in a year;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the number thereof in view of the heavy backlog of pending cases; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rationalise holidays?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) For the year 1989, the Supreme Court will have 38 Gazetted holidays besides a summer vacation of 8 weeks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Opening of Branches of Banks

1660. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms of opening of branches of banks; and

(b) how many proposals are pending before the Reserve Bank for clearance as on 1st January, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The aim of current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90 is to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and make available at least one bank office within a distance of 10 Kms. from every village. Branch expansion in urban and metropolitan areas is restrictive and new branches are allowed in unbanked/underbanked pockets of the city/town on the basis of proposals submitted by banks. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Governments and proposal submitted by banks, 5966 eligible centres upto the end of January, 1989 have been allotted to banks for opening branches in various parts of the country.

Inter-State Water Disputes

1661. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Policy has since been finalised in order to resolve the inter-State water disputes; and

(b) what is the number of inter-State water disputes pending at present and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) An Act namely, Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 exists for resolving the inter-State water disputes.

(b) Two, namely, Cauvery Waters and Ravi-Beas Waters.

Selection of beneficiaries under the Self Employment Programme

1662. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that selection of beneficiaries under the Self-

Employment Programme are made by a Committee at the district level wherein bank representative is also present;

(b) whether instances have come to the notice of Government that persons selected by this Committee are not financed by the banks; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Under the Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), a Task Force has been constituted at the District Level under the Chairmanship of General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) with a representative each from the leading bank, two other leading banks in the district, concerned Small Industries Service Institute, District Employment Officer and Credit Manager (DIC) as members. This Task Force is responsible for identifying and preparing the schemes in industry, service and business sectors; selecting suitable entrepreneurs and determining the avocations/activities of such entreprenurs etc. The applications received by the District Industries Centres after scrutiny by the Task Forces are forwarded to the banks for sanctioning the loan amounts. Bank branches are required to appraise the proposal and ascertain the bankability of the proposed activity by pre-sanction field visits and scrutiny of the proposal sponsored by the Task Force. Thus, there may be instances of rejection of applications by banks recommended by the Task Force if the proposed borrower is not creditworthy and the proposal is not financially viable and technically feasible. However, complaints relating to rejection of applications by banks as and when brought to the notice are duly investigated.

Financial help for agro-based projects

1663. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gramin Banks do not advance more than five thousand rupees for agro-based village industries as well as for poultry units;

(b) whether Government are also aware that nationalised banks do not finance in the areas catered by the Gramin Banks; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to overcome this situation so as to help the rural people to take up agro-based projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that no upper monetary limit has been prescribed for financing by Regional Rural Banks agricultural as well allied activities including poultry farming provided the projects are financially viable and technically feasible. RRB's also finance individuals upto Rs. 30,000 for specified cottage, tiny and village industries for which NABARD provides refinance facilities.

NABARD has further reported that at present there is no restriction on nationalised banks to finance in areas covered by Gramin Banks. However, on introduction of srevice area approach from 1st April, 1989, while Gramin Banks will finance target group beneficiaries in the villages allotted to them, the commercial banks would take care of all other categories of borrowers.